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From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wofford Football to Report Tomorrow
Date: August 4, 2003 at 3:52 PM
To:

MC

The Wofford football program will welcome 57 returning players and 26 freshmen to campus tomorrow for the start of its preseason camp.

The Terrier players will check in by 4 p.m. Following dinner, team physicals and meetings will take place. Wofford's first practice will be Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

A new NCAA rule does not permit contact drills until the fifth day with two-a-day practices not allowed on consecutive days. Two-a-days cannot start until after the fifth day.

"When this time rolls around, there's a great deal of excitement for the coaches and players," Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. "The big thing for us is to get the players in and do all the paperwork with the NCAA meetings.

"Things are going to be a little different this year with the change in practice schedule, having five days of acclimation, and one practice per day. There are a lot of things you have to tweak to make all that work.

"As a coach, this is a time you look forward to. You can't wait to get your kids in, start working, and trying to get better. Our goal is to win a Southern Conference championship. That's been the goal since we joined the league. We know the challenge is great and we've lost some great players to graduation, but we believe we have some young guys that are ready to step up and hopefully be the players we think they can be.

"To say we're excited is probably an understatement. We just want to get started and start building this football team."

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wofford Football Ranked 12th by National Football Gazette
Date: August 5, 2003 at 3:25 PM
To:



The Wofford football team is ranked 12th in the nation in the preseason Division I-AA poll by the *National Football Gazette*.

The Terriers posted a 9-3 record last year and a second-place finish in the Southern Conference with a 6-2 league mark.

Wofford players reported to campus today for the start of preseason camp. The first practice is tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. with the season opener Aug. 30 at Air Force.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wofford Football Reports; Practice Begins Tomorrow
Date: August 5, 2003 at 3:35 PM
To:

MC

Wofford football coach Mike Ayers and his staff welcomed the arrival of 84 players to campus this afternoon with practice beginning tomorrow night.

Tomorrow's itinerary will include weightlifting tests, equipment disbursement, and team meetings, before the Terriers hit the practice field for the first time at 6:30 p.m. The practice will be preceded by a running test.

"The practice field is where your team learns the techniques and the offense and defense," Ayers said. "It's where football players get better and we, as coaches, find out their preparation this summer. It's the foundation of where you start a football team.

"We'll practice for about two and a half hours. There's a lot that's going to have to go in. We've got some young kids who will have their heads swimming. We're going to introduce everything within the first five days. After that, we'll go back and just continue to review and to keep going over the plays, techniques, pass routes, defenses, and areas of the kicking game.

"The practice field is where the nuts and bolts happen in football. We need to get started because we have a lot of work to do."

Following their arrival this afternoon, the Terrier players went through physicals and an NCAA meeting.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wofford Holds Long First Practice as They Share Fields with NFL Team
Date: August 6, 2003 at 10:15 PM
To:

MC

The Wofford football team was on the field for a total of three hours tonight in its first practice of preseason camp.

The Terriers held a fitness test for 30 minutes before a 2 1/2 hour practice. With the Carolina Panthers holding their annual summer training camp at Wofford, the Terriers are sharing their practice field with the National Football League team.

Tomorrow's scheduled practice at 7 p.m. is contingent on the Panthers' schedule. Depending on weather, Carolina is keeping its second practice tomorrow on a flexible schedule. If the Panthers go in the evening, the Terriers might then practice in the afternoon. Another option for Wofford is a new practice field that has been created in the grass area outside Gibbs Stadium. The Terriers used to practice on the campus baseball field. However, that is not an option this year due to the construction of Wofford's new baseball facility.

Wofford coach Mike Ayers was pleased with his team's intensity in tonight's opening practice.

"There are a lot of guys trying to learn about nine million things at one time," Ayers said. "There's a lot of confusion but, at the same time, we also saw a great deal of intensity and hustle.

"When you consider we did a fitness test prior to a 2 1/2 practice, it was pretty good. I see our guys being eager and wanting to learn. They want to compete. In every competitive situation we had, I thought our guys got after it pretty well."

From: Wofford College Online News woffordcollege@topica.email-publisher.com
Subject: Untitled
Date: August 6, 2003 at 10:20 PM
To: Stone, R. Phillip StoneRP@Wofford.Edu



Terriers Hold Long First Practice

Aug. 6, 2003

Wofford College Football



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Read up on Wofford football at <http://athletics.wofford.edu>



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From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wofford Defensive Coordinator Looking to Replace Nine Graduated Starters
Date: August 7, 2003 at 5:39 PM
To:

MC

The Wofford football team held its second practice of preseason camp with defensive coordinator Nate Woody pleased by the effort he sees from his unit that will feature a lot of new faces in starting roles.

While returning a majority of the starters from an offensive unit that placed second in the nation in team rushing last season (342.2 yards per game), the Terriers have just two starters back from a defense that topped the SoCon and ranked among the national leaders in run defense (125.9 ypg), pass defense (144.5 ypg), and total defense (270.4 ypg) a year ago. Wofford was also 12th in the nation in scoring defense (16.4 ppg).

Free safety Matt Nelson and defensive tackle Lee Basinger, the lone returning starters on defense, received preseason All-SoCon honors from the league coaches. Nelson, also a first-team preseason All-America, topped the Terriers with 131 stops last year and is the top returning tackler in the SoCon. Basinger had 20 tackles for loss and nine sacks, while his 64 total stops placed first on the defensive line and fifth overall on the team.

"We're going to look at the strengths of the people that we do have coming back and have identified for our starting rotation or two-deep," Woody said. "We will then see what their strengths are and try from a defensive standpoint to let them do what they do best.

"We still want to build a chemistry. When you lose nine guys, it seems that you start over a little bit from that standpoint.

"I like the tremendous effort not just on the football field, but also from a mental approach in studying what their assignments are. Hopefully, that will help us bridge the gap in losing all those seniors and get those guys squared away early."

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wofford Makes Best of Arena Football
Date: August 8, 2003 at 4:47 PM
To:

MC

*After a thunderstorm forced everything inside last night, the Wofford football team returned outdoors this afternoon for the third practice of its preseason camp.

The Terriers and Carolina Panthers are not only sharing the practice fields on campus, but also the basketball arena. With the fields saturated by rain, the Panthers' morning workout yesterday was also held on the parquet floor in the Benjamin Johnson Arena.

Wofford coach Mike Ayers enjoys the mental aspect of being indoors.

"It gives us an opportunity to have a great teaching period," Ayers said. "A lot of times when you're out on the field, you're more concerned with the physicality of the game versus the mental aspect.

"When we go inside, there's still physical work but there's a lot of teaching and detail work that we try to hit on."

*One of the more interesting battles in preseason camp will be for the placekicking job.

Jay Harvey is the lone returning placekicker and will be pushed by three freshmen. Andrew Moss kicked a school record 47-yard field goal for Wilson Hall in Sumter, S.C., last year. He also had 28 touchbacks on 64 kickoffs a year ago. The other two rookies, Nick Robinson (DeLand, Fla.) and Hartford Campbell (Atlanta, Ga.), were soccer players in high school.

Harvey was a late addition to last year's Terrier roster. The Barnwell, S.C., native handled kickoff duties and was 1-of-2 on field goals and 4-of-8 on extra-point attempts. His PAT provided the winning point in last year's 7-6 win at South Carolina State.

"Thus far, we've tried to focus on just their technique with their initial step and approach to the ball," Ayers said. "We'll have a pretty good opportunity in the next few days to see those guys go out and kick PATs and kickoffs.

"Some of those guys are real young and inexperienced. This is their first try at kicking a football. A lot of people think kicking is kicking, but it's completely different. There's work that needs to be done and it's an area that's a big concern for us. We've just got to continue to work and try to improve."

*The Terriers held a series of position and special teams meetings today in addition to their one practice. Wofford will practice again at 3 p.m. tomorrow. The first day of contact drills will be Sunday at 3 p.m.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wofford Football Goes Camp Retro
Date: August 9, 2003 at 7:20 PM
To:



*The Terriers' scheduled 3 p.m. practice today was moved to 7 p.m. in an historic setting.

Wofford returned to its former home stadium when it practiced at Snyder Field. The Terriers played their home games at Snyder Field for over 60 years before moving to Gibbs Stadium midway through the 1996 campaign. Snyder Field was then renovated into a first-class soccer facility for the Wofford men's and women's teams.

Even though the Panthers have occasionally practiced at Snyder Field, Wofford football hasn't been there since defeating Lenoir-Rhyne, 35-7, in the 1996 home opener.

When the Panthers and Terriers overlapped in previous seasons, Wofford had practiced on the campus baseball field or in Gibbs Stadium. However, those venues aren't options this summer. Wofford has a new baseball facility under construction while Gibbs Stadium is undergoing a field replacement.

*The Terriers will begin contact drills tomorrow at 3 p.m. on Snyder Field.

Under a new NCAA rule, contact drills are not permitted until the fifth practice with two-a-day practices not allowed until after the fifth day. Two-a-days can also not be held on consecutive days.

For Wofford coach Mike Ayers, contact drills are the next phase of preseason camp.

"A big part of the game is the physical nature of it," Ayers said. "When you put the pads on, that's when that part will really start.

"We'll be more competitive in group work and team work. It's an opportunity for the freshmen to get a feel for what the game is like at this level. The speed, power, quickness, and impact is going to be different for them. We're going to find out a little bit about those guys and how they respond to it."

*Monday's opening session of two-a-days will have the Terriers practicing at 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. The morning workout will place Wofford in a new location on campus. To assist with the Panther overlap, part of the grass area outside Gibbs Stadium has been converted to a practice field. The Terriers will then return to their regular fields for the evening practice.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Terriers Begin Contact Drills; Whitney Impresses on Defensive Line
Date: August 10, 2003 at 7:18 PM
To:

MC

The Wofford football team began contact drills with a 2 ½ hour practice on Snyder Field this afternoon.

Terrier coach Mike Ayers was pleased with the effort of his squad, but concerned about the dwindling numbers.

"We're in a tough situation numbers wise," Ayers said. "We're down in the 70s and have to be extra cautious.

"We started camp with 83 guys and, due to some being out with injuries, we're now at 75. We've been pretty physical in the past but feel that we're going to have to save the hard contact for certain scrimmage situations.

"It's been a long five days because a great deal of the work is in the classroom with meetings. The kids are tired. We've physically pushed them and now we're going to the next phase with two-a-days. It's going to be even more physical and we've got to do more as far as conditioning and working on the fundamentals.

"I'm not afraid that our guys won't be ready from a physical standpoint. When we call on them to compete and get after it full speed, they do it as well as any group we've ever had. We believe we're going to have a very good football team. There are some young kids athletically who can really help the team, but we've got to get them up to speed mentally."

*The Terriers will begin two-a-days tomorrow with an 8:45 a.m. practice on the new field outside Gibbs Stadium. Wofford is also scheduled to practice at 7 p.m. on its regular fields. With the Carolina Panthers on campus, the Terriers are working their practice sites around the NFL team's schedule.

With a new NCAA rule not allowing consecutive days with two-a-day practices, the Terriers will alternate between a single and double practice each day.

*Ayers has been pleased with defensive tackle Ben Whitney, commenting on how he came into camp ready to play. The junior from Greensboro, N.C., is competing for a starting job after being utilized in a backup role his first two seasons. He had two tackles for a loss among a season-high seven stops in last year's 14-7 win at Georgia Southern.

Ayers was also pleased with the performance of placekicker Jay Harvey, as the Terriers kicked lived for the first time last night. Also drawing praise was fullback J.R. McNair.

"When he gets the rock in his hands, J.R. is one of those guys you better get out of his way," Ayers said.

McNair, also Wofford's student body president, rushed for 707 yards and nine touchdowns last season while sharing the fullback position with the graduated Melvin Jones.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wofford Football Ranked 19th by The Sports Network
Date: August 11, 2003 at 12:33 PM
To:



The Wofford football team is at No. 19 in The Sports Network's official preseason Division I-AA poll.

The ranking represents the highest appearance by the Terriers in a preseason I-AA poll since Wofford began competing at that level in 1995. The Terriers closed last year in the No. 14 position after posting a 9-3 overall record and second-place finish in the SoCon with a 6-2 league mark.

Wofford opens the 2003 campaign on Aug. 30 at Air Force.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: ESPN/USA Today Ranks Wofford Football 16th
Date: August 11, 2003 at 1:33 PM
To:



ESPN/*USA Today* has ranked the Wofford football team at No. 16 in its official preseason Division I-AA poll.

The ranking represents the highest appearance by the Terriers in a preseason I-AA poll since they began competing at that level in 1995. Wofford was 19th in The Sports Network's preseason poll released earlier today.

The Terriers were ranked 11th in the final ESPN/*USA Today* poll last year after posting a 9-3 overall record and second-place finish in the SoCon with a 6-2 league mark.

Wofford opens the 2003 campaign on Aug. 30 at Air Force.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wood Among Several Players Catching the Eye of Ayers
Date: August 11, 2003 at 4:43 PM
To:

MC

*The Wofford football team went through its first session of two-a-days with wide receiver Shiel Wood among several players catching the eye of Terrier coach Mike Ayers.

"Shiel is catching the football and has done an excellent job," Ayers said. "He's probably the No. 1 guy in the receiving corps right now."

A junior from Spartanburg, S.C., Wood was named Wofford's Most Outstanding Receiver last season despite missing four games due to injury. He totaled six receptions for 87 yards, including two key catches for 29 yards against Furman. He also had a season-long 37-yard reception the following week against Elon.

Ayers also had praise for preseason All-SoCon offensive linemen Eric Deutsch and Bobby Gibbs. Deutsch, also a preseason All-America, had a team-high 125 knockdown blocks last year and was the Terriers' Offensive Player of the Week in the 26-19 win at Appalachian State. Gibbs started all 12 games and was second on the team with 116 knockdowns.

"Eric Deutsch can be a dominating player," Ayers said. "Bobby Gibbs has had a good camp so far and is much improved from last year."

The Terrier halfbacks, led by returning starter Ben Mungin and sophomores Gabriel Jackson and Aaron Johnson, have also performed well. Jackson had the game-winning 61-yard touchdown run with 1:36 to play in last year's 26-19 win at Appalachian State. Johnson filled in for an injured Jesse McCoy and rushed for 81 yards in a 31-24 victory over Western Carolina.

"Gabe Jackson is a guy who we have to get the ball in his hands," Ayers said. "Everytime he touches it, he has an opportunity to be a big playmaker for us."

Ayers was also pleased with Jeff Zolman and Trey Rodgers as they battle for the starting quarterback job. Drawing praise from the special teams were punter Jimmy Miner, a three-time All-SoCon selection and preseason All-America, as well as senior long snapper Jonathan Starks.

*The Terriers will spend tomorrow morning in the weight room as well as team meetings. The lone practice will be at 3 p.m. The evening will include more meetings. Two-a-days will resume Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Hutchinson Moved to Defensive Tackle
Date: August 12, 2003 at 3:22 PM
To:

MC

*The Wofford football team had just one practice today with Erik Hutchinson being moved from inside linebacker to defensive tackle.

Hutchinson was sidelined all of last season by injury. He lettered as a freshman when he totaled 18 tackles in a reserve role. The junior from Woodbine, Ga., had a season-high seven tackles in a 59-14 win over VMI. He also had three stops against Georgia Southern and two versus Clemson.

"Schematically, Erik is a better fit for our group," defensive line coach Jack Teachey said. "He is a big, strong kid who benches around 400 pounds.

"Erik has great feet, speed, and acceleration. We believe he can help us with the pass rush and all the slant and movement we do. Erik has a great desire to do well. He's one of the hardest working kids we have. He comes by to watch film constantly. He has a strong will to be good and wants to do well.

"Eric did well his first day. By a week from now, he'll have a much better understanding, knowing the schemes, what's coming at him, and how to play upfront. We're pleased with what we see."

*The Terriers will return to two-a-days tomorrow with practices at 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Rebuilt Wofford Secondary Performing Well; Freshman Standout Injured
Date: August 13, 2003 at 3:44 PM
To:

MC

*The Wofford football team went through its second session of two-a-days today with the secondary, featuring three new starters, drawing a positive review from coach Mike Ayers and defensive back coach Terry Lantz.

"All the kids in the secondary are flying around pretty good," Ayers said.

Two-time All-SoCon selection and All-America free safety Matt Nelson (Grove City, Ohio) is the lone returning starter in the unit. However, a pair of seniors and a junior are making their push for starting jobs.

Strong safety Ryan Steele, a senior from York, S.C., was slated to start last season before missing the opening two games due to injury. He totaled 21 tackles a year ago, including a season-high five stops at Maryland.

Fellow senior Craig Thomas (Savannah, Ga.) and Jonathan Wheeler (Columbia, S.C.) are the projected starters at corner after serving in backup roles last season. Thomas had an interception in the 31-24 win over Western Carolina while also forcing a fumble against Furman.

"There's really good competition for the starting positions, especially with the younger corners pushing the older guys and making them practice hard," Lantz said. "I feel good where we're at right now. We just need to continue to improve.

"We have the makings of a very good group. I've been pleased with their intensity and practice habits. The veterans are practicing very hard. The younger guys, mentally, are just learning things. They will push for playing time and starting positions because they're talented enough. They just need to get a little sharper mentally.

"Competition is the best thing for the secondary. I've been very pleased with all of them. The young guys and incoming freshmen are all good kids and talented enough to help us. It's just kind of a timetable deal. It might a little further down the road, but they're all going to be good players for us."

Pushing for playing time at corner are sophomores Alex Love (Decatur, Ga.) and Dedrick Stuckey (Lyons, Ga.) as well as junior Shaun Bennett (High Point, N.C.).

*Freshman defensive tackle James Drury (Tulsa, Okla.), projected to make an immediate impact, is sidelined a minimum of 4-to-6 weeks with a right ankle fracture.

Drury was an All-State selection at Jenks High School last year. He helped lead Jenks to a pair of 6-A state titles and a *USA Today* Top 25 ranking.

*Wofford will practice at 3 p.m. tomorrow. The morning will be spent in the weight room and in team meetings. The Terriers will resume two-a-days on Thursday with the first scrimmage set for 12 noon on Saturday.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wofford Freshman Running Back Turning Heads; OLB Position Solidified
Date: August 14, 2003 at 4:10 PM
To:

MC

*The Wofford football team held just one practice today with freshman Kevious Johnson continuing to impress with his ability to play at both fullback and halfback.

A 5-foot-9, 180-pound native of Fitzgerald, Ga., Johnson was a two-time All-Region and All-State selection at Fitzgerald High School. He was the Area Offensive Player of the Year after totaling 2,030 all-purpose yards and 25 touchdowns. He rushed for 992 yards on a 7.9 per carry average while adding 27 receptions for 539 yards (20.0 avg.). Johnson also had 499 yards on kickoff returns.

"Kevious looks like he's going to be one of those special kids," Wofford offensive coordinator Wade Lang said. "We recruited him as a fullback with the thought that we could move him to halfback if we needed to, and we have had to because of some injuries.

"Kevious has done a great job of learning both positions. It's tough for any kid to come in and learn one, much less both. He's had as few busts on plays as any of the other kids and he's working at both positions from a conditioning standpoint. He's in phenomenal shape and is doing a great job."

*The Terrier outside linebacker position, looking to replace graduated starters Hondre McNeil and Chase Corn, has been solidified by the effort of projected first-team performers Teddie Whitaker and Jimmy Freland.

Whitaker, a three-year letterman, is an athletic senior who totaled 34 tackles last season. The Burton, S.C., native had at least one tackle for loss in four of the final five games a year ago, including a sack in the 26-19 win at Appalachian State. He also had a tackle for a six-yard loss against Furman. He has 62 career stops and three sacks, with one of those coming in the 2001 opener at Clemson.

Freland has totaled 87 tackles in lettering each of the last two seasons. The junior from Cincinnati, Ohio, had three sacks last year, including a key fourth-quarter sack against Furman. He started eight games as a true freshman in the 2001 campaign.

"Both guys are having a good camp to this point," Wofford outside linebacker coach Thomas Neel said. "One thing that stands out more than anything about Jimmy Freland is his pass rush. He's moving around real well, as is Teddie Whitaker."

Another outside linebacker making an impact is Derek Newberry, who is in a second-team position.

A 6-foot-3, 218-pound native of Austin, Texas, Newberry did not see game action last year and was moved from strong safety in the spring.

"Derek has made some huge strides and is looking better day in and day out," Neel said. "We're looking at him playing immediately."

*The Terriers will return to two-a-days tomorrow with practices at 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. The first scrimmage is set for Saturday at 12 noon.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wofford Football to Scrimmage Tomorrow
Date: August 15, 2003 at 4:58 PM
To:



The Wofford football team will hold the first scrimmage of its 2003 preseason camp tomorrow at 12 noon.

"The big thing is getting some full speed work and game tempo," Terrier coach Mike Ayers said. "We also want to come out of it with everybody healthy. That's as important as anything."

The Terriers had practices at 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. today.

"Our kids have a real good work ethic," Ayers said. "We have a lot of young guys that can help us. We just have to work to be consistent."

"The weather was really nice the first few days of practice. It was wet, but the temperature was down. We're now experiencing the typical weather that we have in Spartanburg in August. We're battling the heat and fatigue and making sure that we stay as healthy as we can with the limited numbers that we have."

Defensive coordinator Nate Woody is looking forward to evaluating his personnel that will be replacing nine graduated starters.

"We got the opportunity to see guys fit the defense in practice this week," Woody said. "In the scrimmage, those guys will be able to finish plays and make tackles. We'll be able to evaluate guys and solidify our two-deep."

Following tomorrow's scrimmage, the Terriers will practice at 3 p.m. on Sunday before resuming two-a-days on Monday at 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Defense Dominates in Opening Wofford Football Scrimmage
Date: August 16, 2003 at 2:44 PM
To:

MC

Despite losing nine starters to graduation, the Wofford defense got the better of the offense this afternoon in the opening scrimmage of the Terriers' preseason camp.

Wofford went through 60 plays, 43 running and 17 passing, and an overtime series before an impending thunderstorm cut the scrimmage short.

All-America free safety Matt Nelson (Grove City, Ohio) led the Terrier defensive effort. He had a punishing hit on a pass breakup early in the scrimmage in addition to a tackle for loss. Freshman inside linebacker Justin Franklin (Jacksonville, N.C.) also had one of the big hits on the day.

Defensive tackle Lee Basinger (Kannapolis, N.C.) recorded a sack, while outside linebacker Andrew Nelson (Matthews, N.C.) added a fumble recovery.

"We were very inconsistent on offense," Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. "We had way too many penalties and busted assignments.

"It was the first time for a lot of guys that are real young and we had problems lining up. We have to do a better job coaching them in making sure they are assignment sound.

"We had some bright spots. We chased the ball well on defense. We did have some problems tackling people in space, and that's always a concern. We had some breakdowns and issues with our pass protection. The defense did a nice job and we did a poor job offensively. That compounds the problem. We still have a ways to go on both sides of the ball."

The lone offense was provided on a 38-yard field goal by freshman Nick Robinson from DeLand, Fla. Robinson did not play football in high school. He was instead an All-County and All-Area soccer player.

Senior fullback and Wofford student body president J.R. McNair (Jonesboro, Ga.) led the ground game with 57 yards on eight attempts. Halfback Aaron Johnson added 46 yards on four carries. A sophomore from Bowling Green, Ky., Johnson replaced an injured Jesse McCoy against Western Carolina last season and rushed for 81 yards in a 31-24 Terrier victory.

Donald Dorham continued his impressive preseason camp with 41 yards on four attempts, including a 30-yard gain on his first carry during the Terriers' opening possession. The junior from Park Forest, Ill., is battling for a second-team position at fullback behind McNair.

Trey Rodgers completed 3-of-5 passes for 23 yards. Two of his completions, totaling 24 yards, went to former Dorman High School teammate and fellow Spartanburg, S.C., native Curtis Nash.

On the overtime series, quarterback Jeff Zolman appeared to score the only touchdown on the day with a three-yard run. However, the play was called back by an offensive penalty.

The Terriers will practice at 3 p.m. tomorrow before resuming two-a-days on Monday with practices at 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Ayers Gives Wofford Improved Grade after Review of Videotape
Date: August 17, 2003 at 7:09 PM
To:



After reviewing the video from yesterday's opening scrimmage of his team's 2003 preseason camp, Wofford coach Mike Ayers saw a lot more positives than he initially thought.

"The big thing is that we did a little better than we thought," Ayers said. "Fundamentally, we were better in some areas.

"There was excellent effort overall. We had some young kids that stood out and showed us that they're going to be able to help. The offensive line is improving. There are a lot of kids there that fundamentally are better. They're taking better steps and better pad level.

"We had three quarterbacks that scored real well on their grade and were very consistent, but we did not catch the ball as well as we needed to. When the ball gets in your hands, we've got to make those plays.

"Overall, it was more positive than we thought. We would have liked to have had more work, but the lightning came and we're not going to jeopardize our kids to get a few more reps. We just felt that was the appropriate thing to do. We worked this morning on our final installation. Pretty much everything will be in. From here on out, we're going to polish up what we've already put in and get ready for Air Force (the Aug. 30 season opener)."

The Terriers practiced at 8:45 a.m. today after initially planning to hit the field at 3 p.m. Two-a-days resume tomorrow at 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: GoUpstate.com to Provide Live Updates and Analysis of Wofford Football Games
Date: August 18, 2003 at 2:40 PM
To:



GoUpstate.com, the web site for the Spartanburg *Herald-Journal*, will provide live on-line updates and analysis during each Wofford football game this season.

"We're looking forward to providing expanded coverage of Wofford football to our users," said Andy Rhinehart, *Herald-Journal* new media editor. "With last season's success and the preseason national recognition that the Terriers are receiving this year, Wofford game days are going to be charged with enthusiasm this fall, and we look forward to sharing that atmosphere with our online community."

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Gibbs Impressive on Offensive Line; Freshmen Appear on Wofford Two-Deep
Date: August 18, 2003 at 5:25 PM
To:

MC

The Wofford football team returned to two-a-days with preseason All-SoCon offensive guard Bobby Gibbs receiving praise from Terrier coach Mike Ayers.

"Bobby Gibbs is making a lot of progress," Ayers said. "We believe he is much better fundamentally with his stance and steps. He's very explosive with great hustle. He's one of those guys that I think is doing an excellent job as far as leadership."

Gibbs placed second on the Terriers last season with 116 knockdown blocks from his left guard position. He's one of three returning starters on the Wofford offensive line, which includes a pair of 2002 All-SoCon performers in left tackle Chad Bentley and right guard Eric Deutsch.

A true freshman drawing accolades on the offensive line is Marty Bauer (Cincinnati, Ohio), who has moved into a second-team position behind Deutsch. The only other freshman on the Terrier offensive and defensive two-deep is halfback Kevious Johnson (Fitzgerald, Ga.).

Sophomore Brad Birrenkott (Tampa, Fla.) has been impressing at tackle and had a very good scrimmage on Saturday.

Another freshman making his mark is Justin Franklin (Jacksonville, N.C.) at inside linebacker.

"Justin has shown that he has a great deal of speed, can move around, and make plays," Ayers said.

The Terriers will practice at 3 p.m. tomorrow. The morning will be spent in meetings and in the weight room.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wofford Football Preparing for Tomorrow's Air Force Scrimmage
Date: August 19, 2003 at 4:50 PM
To:

MC

The Wofford football team will close the preseason portion of its 2003 camp with a 12 noon scrimmage tomorrow that will center on the Aug. 30 season opener at Air Force.

"We're trying to focus on Air Force at this point," Terrier coach Mike Ayers said. "We started preseason camp working on fundamentals and introducing the scheme, and now we're really trying to concentrate on Air Force.

"To a certain extent, we've been practicing for Air Force since last spring because our offense and their offense is very similar. Defensively, we're also very similar. There will be a lot of carryover. We just have to make sure we're as healthy as possible, in great shape, and play sound, fundamental football."

Following the scrimmage, the Terriers will enter game week preparation. Wofford will fly to Air Force next Wednesday and have three days of practice in Colorado Springs before the Aug. 30 contest.

The trip to Air Force represents the farthest west a Wofford football team has ever traveled in addition to being the Terriers' first game against a Mountain West Conference opponent. It will also be Wofford's eighth Division I-A opponent in the last six seasons.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wofford Football Has Air Force Flavor in Final Scrimmage; Rodgers Keys Offense
Date: August 20, 2003 at 4:30 PM
To:

MC

The Wofford football team closed the preseason portion of its 2003 camp with a scrimmage this afternoon that focused on the offensive and defensive schemes of Air Force, the Terriers' season-opening opponent on Aug. 30.

"We're a little leg weary and our execution was good and bad," Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. "We're not as consistent as we need to be.

"We're counting on a lot of young guys and, quite frankly, they're not ready for prime time. We've got to continue to work with them and get better at the fundamentals. We tried to do as well as we could in dividing the squad with our limited numbers. When you do that, it makes it more difficult. It was a hot day and they kept competing, running around, flying around, and getting after it. With all that, it wasn't all bad.

"We're just not as consistent as we need to be, whether it's catching the ball, pass protection, or making the tackle in space."

Trey Rodgers led the offense by completing 7-of-8 passes for 62 yards and a pair of touchdowns to tight ends. The former Dorman High School standout connected with fellow Spartanburg native Steve Prochak (Spartanburg High School) on a 7-yard scoring toss in addition to a 17-yard strike to Adam Regenthal. Rodgers was also the top rusher with 29 yards on six attempts. Prochak led the receiving corps with three catches.

Other touchdowns scored included a 4-yard run by freshman Kevious Johnson and a 10-yard carry by Gabriel Jackson.


Defensive highlights featured a Brandon Smith goal-line interception. Freshman Geno Thompson, playing on the Air Force scout team, had a 46-yard fumble return for a touchdown. Andrew Nelson added a tackle for loss on a 4th-and-1 play.

All-America free safety Matt Nelson saved a touchdown with a pass breakup on a deep ball. John Pressley had a sack and tackle for loss, while Craig Thomas and Bill Pryor also had stops behind the line of scrimmage. Ryan Steele blocked a punt out of the end zone for a safety.

"Air Force is a quality football team," Ayers said. "Those guys will come ready to play, and we've got to get ready to play.

"We've somehow got to get these guys to where they work, understand what they got to do to be in shape, be physically ready and not worn out. From here on out, we're going to focus on the mental aspect of the game, getting better fundamentally, and preparing for Air Force."

The Terriers will begin game-week preparation tomorrow in addition to holding their picture day at 11 a.m. in front of the Main Building on campus.

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM 
Subject: Wofford Football Notes -- Saturday's game at Air Force
Date: August 25, 2003 at 1:42 PM
To: Cohen, Mark CohenM@Wofford.Edu

MC

Attached as a .pdf is Wofford's football release for Saturday's season opener at Air Force. The notes are also posted on our web site (www.wofford.edu/athletics). If you have any trouble with the attachment or prefer to receive the release in a different manner, please feel free to let me know.

Thanks.

Mark Cohen
Associate AD/Media Relations
Wofford College



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e-airfo...me.pdf



Game 1

Wofford at Air Force

August 30, 2003; 2 p.m. (Eastern)

Falcon Stadium (52,480); Colorado Springs, Colo.

This Week

•The Wofford College football team, ranked No. 16 by ESPN/*USA Today* and No. 19 by The Sports Network in preseason Division I-AA polls, opens the 2003 campaign at Air Force.

•The Falcons are coached by 1960 Wofford graduate **Fisher DeBerry**. A native of Cheraw, S.C., DeBerry played flanker, defensive back, and linebacker for the Terriers and was a teammate of Carolina Panther owner and founder **Jerry Richardson '59**. Also a second baseman and shortstop for the Terrier baseball team, DeBerry was inducted into Wofford's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986.

After six years of coaching and teaching in the South Carolina high school ranks, DeBerry returned to Wofford as an assistant coach in the 1969-70 seasons under **Jim Brakefield**. During that time, the Terriers won a school record 21 consecutive games and were ranked No. 1 in the NAIA. The 1970 campaign saw Wofford advance to the national championship game.

•The trip to Colorado Springs will represent the farthest west a Wofford football team has ever traveled. It's also the Terriers' first game against a Mountain West Conference opponent.

•Air Force will be Wofford's eighth Division I-A opponent in the last six seasons. The Terriers have previously faced Marshall (1998), Middle Tennessee (1999), Louisiana-Lafayette (1999), Louisiana-Monroe (2000), Clemson (2001), South Carolina (2001), and Maryland (2002).

•With classes at Wofford not scheduled to begin until Sept. 1, the Terriers are departing Wednesday for Air Force and will practice that afternoon in Colorado Springs. The Terriers will have a total of three practices in Colorado prior to Saturday's game.

•Saturday's football contest will not be the first time Wofford and Air Force have met in athletic competition. The Terriers and Falcons faced each other for four consecutive years in men's basketball (1996-97 - 1999-00). Air Force held a 3-1 lead in that series, including a 2-0 mark in Colorado Springs. Wofford took a 51-50 win in the last meeting (Jan. 5, 2000 in Spartanburg).

•Air Force is receiving votes in the Division I-A preseason polls and is coming off an 8-5 season that culminated with a trip to the San Francisco Bowl against Virginia Tech.

A Look Back

The 2002 campaign saw Wofford post its most successful season in eight years on the Division I-AA level.

Picked to finish seventh in preseason Southern Conference polls by the league coaches and media, the Terriers placed second with a 6-2 league record and 9-3 overall mark.

Included in the win total were victories at Georgia Southern and Appalachian State, making Wofford the only team in Division I-AA to have two wins over teams ranked in the top five of the final regular-season poll.

Terrier coach **Mike Ayers** was named the Division I-AA National Coach of the Year by the College Sporting News in addition to being the runner-up for The Sports Network's Eddie Robinson Award, signifying the nation's top coach in Division I-AA.

Wofford (0-0, 0-0)

Aug. 30	at Air Force	2:00
Sept. 6	S.C. STATE	7:00
Sept. 20	GEORGIA SOUTHERN*	7:00
Sept. 27	CATAWBA	7:00
Oct. 4	at Chattanooga*	4:00
Oct. 11	ELON*	1:30
Oct. 18	at Western Carolina*	2:00
Oct. 25	APPALACHIAN ST.*	12:20
Nov. 1	at The Citadel*	2:00
Nov. 8	ETSU*	1:30
Nov. 15	at Furman*	2:00

*SoCon game

Air Force (0-0, 0-0)

Aug. 30	WOFFORD	2:00
Sept. 6	at Northwestern	1:00
Sept. 13	NORTH TEXAS	2:00
Sept. 20	WYOMING*	2:00
Sept. 27	at BYU*	3:00
Oct. 4	at Navy	1:30
Oct. 11	UNLV*	TBA
Oct. 16	at Colorado State*	10:00
Nov. 1	UTAH*	TBA
Nov. 8	ARMY	TBA
Nov. 15	at New Mexico*	TBA
Nov. 22	at San Diego State*	TBA

*Mountain West Conference game

Worth Noting

•With an enrollment of 1,100 students, Wofford is the smallest school in Division I-A or I-AA football. The SAT average (1236) on campus is actually higher than the enrollment. With 83 players on the roster, nearly one out of every six males on the Wofford campus play on the football team.

•Starting fullback and Dean's List student **J.R. McNair** (707 yards, 9 TDs in 2002) is the second Wofford football player in the last three years to double as the college's student body president. **Ben Foster**, a three-year starter at halfback, also held that office during the 2001-02 academic year.

•After serving 28 years as Wofford's president (1972-00), **Dr. Joe Lesesne** is in his third season as the Terriers' tight end coach.

Terriers on the Tube

Hosted by NewsChannel 7 Sports Director **Pete Yanity**, Wofford Football Illustrated is seen on WASV-TV (sister station of CBS-affiliate WSPA) each Sunday at 12:30 p.m.

WASV-TV is part of the nation's 35th-largest television market and covers the Spartanburg/Greenville/Asheville/Anderson area.

Dining with The Coach

The Mike Ayers Media Luncheon is held each Monday at 11:30 a.m. in the Ginko Room of the Burwell Building on the Wofford campus.

All media members are invited. Players are available on request. Please notify Wofford SID **Mark Cohen** if you plan on attending.

Football Anyone?

Nearly one out of every six males on the Wofford campus play on the football team.

The Wofford student body of 1,100 is divided nearly equally between 550 males and 550 females. This year's Terrier football roster has 83 players. With roughly 300 student-athletes on campus, more than 25 percent of Wofford's student body is on an athletic team.

Academic Dominance

Wofford has led the way in each of the last three years in placing members on the Verizon Academic All-District team, which combines Division I-A and I-AA institutions in a five-state region.

Wofford had six players receive honors last fall with no other school having more than four selections. To be eligible, a player must have a 3.2 cumulative GPA and be a starter or key reserve.

Outside linebacker **Chase Corn** and strong safety **Brandon Ladd** were first-team choices with defensive tackle **Lee Basinger**, offensive tackle **Jesse Blackburn**, center **Prosser Carnegie**, and fullback **J.R. McNair** receiving second-team accolades. Corn was named to the first team for the third consecutive year.

Wofford and Florida tied for the most selections in 2001 with four. In the 2000 campaign, Wofford had six players on the team while no other school had more than three.

The Friendly Skies

The flight to Colorado Springs, Colo., represents just the fifth time Wofford has flown to a game in its 114-year football history.

Special Guests

Legendary former Wofford football coach **Conley Snidow** is making the trip to Air Force.

During his distinguished tenure with the Terriers, Snidow coached **Fisher DeBerry**. He was also Wofford's longtime winningest coach (77 victories, 1953-66) until his mark was broken in 2001 by current Terrier boss **Mike Ayers**.

Terriers Heard Worldwide on the Web

Originating through AM 910 WSPA, Wofford football games are broadcast worldwide on the Internet with **Mark Hauser** on the play-by-play, **Thom Henson** the color commentary, and **Tom Brown** on sideline analysis.

TEAMLINE brings the Terrier broadcasts to the web at www.teamline.cc.

Those without Internet access can pick up the game from anywhere in the country through TEAMLINE by dialing 1-800-846-4700. The Wofford code is 1099.

SoCon Teleconference

The Southern Conference holds a weekly teleconference throughout the season with the league's nine head football coaches. The teleconference is open to members of the media each Tuesday from 10 a.m. - 11:03 a.m. Eastern time. Each coach has seven minutes to make an opening statement and answer questions.

Time (Eastern)

10:00 - 10:07
10:07 - 10:14
10:14 - 10:21
10:21 - 10:28
10:28 - 10:35
10:35 - 10:42
10:42 - 10:49
10:49 - 10:56
10:56 - 11:03

Coach, School

Jerry Moore, Appalachian State
Ellis Johnson, The Citadel
Paul Hamilton, ETSU
Al Seagraves, Elon
Bobby Lamb, Furman
Mike Sewak, Georgia Southern
Rodney Allison, Chattanooga
Kent Briggs, Western Carolina
Mike Ayers, Wofford

SoCon Teleconference Number
1-866-375-5101

Historic Wins with a Stingy Defense

Last season saw Wofford become the first SoCon team to win at Georgia Southern and Appalachian State in the same season since Marshall in 1996.

In the process, the Terriers held both the Eagles and Mountaineers to under 300 yards of offense.

Georgia Southern had 234 yards rushing and 257 total in the Terriers' 14-7 victory, while Appalachian State was held to 52 yards on the ground and 282 total in Wofford's 26-19 win.

Wofford also rushed for a single-game Appalachian State opponent record 472 yards in the victory in Boone, N.C.

Wofford football can be found on the web at:

www.wofford.edu/athletics

WOFFORD VS. AIR FORCE

Wofford Honor Roll

Jimmy Miner, P

- 2003 Preseason All-America by The Sports Network, *Lindy's*, and the *National Football Gazette*
- Ranked as the No. 3 punter in Division I-AA by The Sports Network
- 2003 Preseason All-SoCon
- Three-time All-SoCon (2002, 2001, 2000)
- Two-time honorable-mention All-America (2002, 2001)

Matt Nelson, FS

- 2003 First-team preseason All-America by the *National Football Gazette*
- Ranked as the No. 9 safety in Division I-AA by The Sports Network
- 2003 Preseason All-SoCon
- 2002 First-team All-America by the *National Football Gazette*
- Two-time All-SoCon (2002, 2001)

Eric Deutsch, OG

- 2003 Preseason All-America by *Lindy's* and the *National Football Gazette*
- 2003 Preseason All-SoCon
- 2002 Third-team All-America by the *National Football Gazette*
- 2002 All-SoCon

Chad Bentley, OT

- 2003 Preseason All-SoCon
- 2002 All-SoCon by the league coaches

J.R. McNair, FB

- 2003 Honorable-mention preseason All-America by the *National Football Gazette*

Lee Basinger, DT

- 2003 Preseason All-SoCon

Bobby Gibbs, OG

- 2003 Preseason All-SoCon

Adam Regenthal, TE

- 2003 Preseason All-SoCon

Average Size of Starting Lineups

	<u>Wofford</u>	<u>Air Force</u>
Offensive Line*	6-3, 282	6-5, 278
Offensive Backs	5-11, 192	5-10, 201
Wide Receivers	5-10, 185	5-11, 190
Defensive Front	6-2, 262	6-4, 262
Linebackers	6-1, 224	6-1, 232
Secondary	6-1, 196	5-11, 194

*Includes tight end

Basic Formations

Wofford Offense: Wingbone

Wofford Defense: Multiple 50

Air Force Offense: Multiple Option

Air Force Defense: Multiple 3-3-5

Class Breakdown

Wofford Offense -

3 seniors, 5 juniors, 3 sophomores, 0 freshmen

Air Force Defense -

8 seniors, 2 juniors, 1 sophomore, 0 freshmen

Wofford Defense -

4 seniors, 5 juniors, 2 sophomores, 0 freshmen

Air Force Offense

8 seniors, 3 juniors, 0 sophomores, 0 freshmen

The Head Coaches

Mike Ayers

Alma Mater: Georgetown (Ky.) '74

16th season at Wofford, 19th as a head coach

Record at Wofford: 90-75-1. Overall Record: 101-96-2.

Fisher DeBerry

Alma Mater: Wofford '60

20th season at Air Force, 20th as a head coach

Record at Air Force: 149-83-1. Overall Record: 149-83-1.

Charting Wofford's Opponents

<u>Opponent (this week)</u>	<u>Record</u>
Air Force (vs. Wofford)	0-0
South Carolina State (at Tennessee State)	0-0
Georgia Southern (Open)	0-0
Catawba (Open)	0-0
Chattanooga (vs. Samford)	0-0
Elon (at Furman)	0-0
Western Carolina (at N.C. State)	0-0
Appalachian State (at Hawaii)	0-0
The Citadel (vs. Charleston Southern)	0-0
ETSU (at Eastern Michigan)	0-0
Furman (vs. Elon)	0-0
Aggregate Record	0-0

WOFFORD VS. AIR FORCE

The Head Coach

Mike Ayers, Wofford College's all-time winningest coach with 90 victories, is in his 16th year on the Terrier sideline.

Ayers recorded his 100th career win in the 39-10 victory at East Tennessee State last season. He was previously the Bucs' head coach from 1985-87.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Ayers has been named the SoCon Coach of the Year twice in the last three seasons. He was also the 2002 Division I-AA National Coach of the Year by the College Sporting News in addition to being the runner-up for The Sports Network's Eddie Robinson Award, signifying the top coach in Division I-AA.

Hello Neighbor

The 2003 campaign marks the 24th consecutive year that Wofford Head Coach **Mike Ayers** and his offensive coordinator and neighbor **Wade Lang** are together in football.

Ayers and Lang not only have their offices side-by-side, they also live across the street from each other.

In 1980, when Ayers came to Wofford as an assistant coach, Lang was in his sophomore year. When Ayers left for the defensive coordinator position at East Tennessee State in 1983, Lang joined him in Johnson City as a graduate assistant before being elevated to a full-time position in 1985.

They both returned to Wofford in 1988 when Ayers was named the Terriers' head coach. He brought Lang with him as the quarterback coach. Lang then took over the offensive coordinator duties in 1990.

A Presidential Flavor to the Wofford Staff

Retired Wofford College president **Dr. Joe Lesesne** is in his third season on the Terrier football staff as a volunteer assistant coach working with the tight ends.

Lesesne retired in 2000 after a distinguished 28-year tenure as just the ninth president in the 149-year history of Wofford.

Lesesne is no stranger to football. Upon arriving at Wofford in 1964 as a history professor, he served four years (1965-68) as an assistant football coach for the Terriers under coach **Conley Snidow** and later **Jim Brakefield**. Lesesne also coached one season at Abbeville (S.C.) High School.

Future Coach?

If he'd like to follow **Joe Lesesne** from the president's office to the football coaching staff, current Wofford president **Bernie Dunlap** does have a football background.

Dunlap earned All-Area honors as a starting fullback for Columbia (S.C.) High School as well as receiving a varsity letter as a halfback at the University of the South.

Did You Know?

•An anonymous donor committed \$100,000 toward the creation of an endowed scholarship in honor of Wofford football coach **Mike Ayers**.

•Ayers is a black belt in karate and an accomplished sketch artist.

•Now in his seventh SoCon season at Wofford, Ayers ranks in a tie for second with East Tennessee State's **Paul Hamilton** in league seniority behind Appalachian State's **Jerry Moore** (15 years).

Strength of Schedule

•The Wofford football team annually plays one of the toughest schedules in the nation for a Division I-AA member.

This year's slate opens Saturday at Air Force. The contest will mark the Terriers' eighth game in the last six seasons against a I-A opponent.

•Wofford played at defending ACC champion Maryland last year while taking on Clemson and South Carolina in the 2001 campaign. Wofford was the nation's only I-AA team to face a pair of bowl teams that season.

•The Terriers had four I-AA playoff teams on their 2000 schedule in addition to Division I-A Louisiana-Monroe.

•In 1999, Wofford was one of just three I-AA teams to face two I-A opponents.

•The 1998 campaign saw the Terrier schedule ranked as the eighth-most difficult in the nation with the 11 opponents combining for a .563 winning percentage.

2002 Final Southern Conference Standings

Team	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Georgia Southern	7	1	.875	11	3	.786
Wofford	6	2	.750	9	3	.750
Appalachian State	6	2	.750	8	4	.667
Furman	6	2	.750	8	4	.667
VMI	3	5	.375	6	6	.500
Western Carolina	3	5	.375	5	6	.455
Chattanooga	2	6	.250	2	10	.167
East Tennessee State	2	6	.250	4	8	.333
The Citadel	1	7	.125	3	9	.250

This Week:

East Tennessee State at Eastern Michigan, 7 p.m. (Thurs.)

Samford at Chattanooga, 8 p.m. (Thurs.)

Wofford at Air Force, 2 p.m. (Eastern)

Charleston Southern at The Citadel, 2 p.m.

Western Carolina at N.C. State, 6 p.m.

*Elon at Furman, 7 p.m.

Appalachian State at Hawaii, 12:05 a.m.

*SoCon Game

Wofford has topped the Southern Conference in its graduation rate for football players all six years since joining the league in 1997.

Wofford Ranks in the Top 10

In a recent Division I Graduation Rate Report, Wofford was the only school in the nation to rank in the Top 10 in all four categories: overall student-athlete graduation rate as well as those for the football, men's basketball, and women's basketball teams.

Listed below were the Top 10 schools in the nation in their graduation rate for student-athletes. The information was taken from a recent NCAA Division I Graduation Rate Report:

	Student-Athlete Graduation Rate
1. Northwestern	92 percent
2. Duke	91 percent
2. Georgetown	91 percent
4. Lehigh	90 percent
4. Manhattan	90 percent
6. Bucknell	89 percent
6. Notre Dame	89 percent
6. Stanford	89 percent
9. Loyola (Md.)	86 percent
10. Wofford	85 percent

2002 SoCon Graduation Rate Summary

The chart below, taken from the 2002 Southern Conference Graduation Rate Summary, shows how Wofford continues to top the SoCon in graduating the highest percentage of its football players in addition to overall student-athletes over the last four years.

Wofford's high graduation rate comes at a nationally-respected liberal arts college with an average SAT score of 1236.

	Football Players 4-year average	Student-Athlete 4-year average
1. Wofford	73 percent	77 percent
2. Furman	66 percent	70 percent
3. Appalachian State	58 percent	62 percent
4. The Citadel	57 percent	62 percent
5. Elon	56 percent	64 percent
6. Chattanooga	54 percent	48 percent
7. Georgia Southern	49 percent	51 percent
8. Western Carolina	46 percent	55 percent
9. East Tennessee State	34 percent	44 percent
Division I-AA Average	49 percent	54 percent

1236 vs. 1100

Wofford College boasts a higher SAT average (1236) than enrollment (1100).

About Wofford

- Located in Spartanburg, S.C., Wofford is one of only five independent colleges and universities to have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter in the Carolinas (Davidson, Duke, Furman, and Wake Forest are the others).

- Wofford is one of just three Division I colleges or universities to have the nickname Terriers. The others are Boston University and St. Francis (N.Y.).

- Founded in 1854, Wofford has an enrollment of 1,100 which makes it the smallest school in NCAA Division I-A or I-AA football.

- With 1,100 students, Wofford is the second smallest school in Division I. Only Centenary (La.) is smaller with 850 students. However, the Gentlemen do not field a football team.

- Famous Wofford graduates include Carolina Panther owner and founder **Jerry Richardson** and Air Force football coach **Fisher DeBerry**.

- Wofford ranks No. 1 among national liberal arts colleges in "operating efficiency," providing a quality education while spending relatively less.

In a recent NCAA Division I Graduation Rate Report, Wofford was the only school in the nation to rank in the Top 10 in all four categories: overall student-athlete graduation rate as well as those for the football, men's basketball, and women's basketball teams.

"There are no junk courses at Wofford that we could see, and we would certainly match its course of study with that of any school in the Ivy League."

National Review's Guide to the
Best Liberal Arts Colleges
"America's Top 50 Liberal Arts Schools"

Just Call Him Joe College ...

Starting fullback **J.R. McNair** doubles as Wofford's student body president. He's the second Wofford football player in the last three years to serve in that role. **Ben Foster**, a three-year starter at halfback, also held that office during the 2001-02 academic year.

Listed below is McNair's resume:

- *Wofford Student Body President
- *Dean's List student with a 3.64 GPA while majoring in finance
- *Campus Union Elections and Nominations Committee Chairman
- *Campus Union Chaplain, 2002
- *Chairman, Wofford College Captain's Council
- *Wofford College Board of Trustees Student Representative: Student Life Committee
- *Wofford Ambassadors, Admissions Office: Provide campus tours/Wofford history to prospective students and their families
- *Wofford College Student Panel
- *Advisor to Arkwright Community: Community Student Representative
- *Community Mentor: Volunteer once a week to take inner-city youth from Z.L. Madden and Mary H. Wright Elementary Schools to lunch
- *Wofford College Dual Representative: Spartanburg Big Band Project
- *Chairman for a new community service project involving South Carolina colleges and universities
- *Web Designer/Developer: Created a web site for the Piedmont area Girl Scouts
- *Association of African-American Students
- *United Voices of Victory (UVOV) Gospel Choir member
- *President, Wofford College Gospel Choir
- *Wofford Singers
- *Southern Comfort (men's ensemble)
- *Wofford Show Choir
- *Wofford Men's Glee Club
- *Campus Outreach
- *Campus Crusade
- *Feed the Children: Partner since 2000 (donations have provided 450 meals)
- *Chairman and Founder of the Stay a Night/Save a Life program, designed for Wofford students in which hotel chains would house students at a discounted rate if they were on the road fatigued or physically unable to drive
- *Initiated a campus mass transportation program to acquire a 15-passenger van for student organization use, helping avoid the cost of renting vehicles
- *Helped create web sites for all campus organizations that were in need of one
- *Represented Wofford at the 2002 Southern Conference Student-Athlete Leadership Institute
- *2002 selection to the American Football Coaches Association "Good Works" Team, one of just five I-AA student-athletes to be honored for their community involvement
- *2002 and 2001 Verizon Academic All-District selection
- *2002 Division I-AA Athletic Directors Association Academic All-Star Team



"You think a coach at any other school would let me participate in a fourth of the stuff that I do here? Coach Ayers has so much trust in us. He realizes we're more than athletes, and we're more than students. We're people. Football, that's a big part of the college experience but it's not all of it."

J.R. McNair
Wofford fullback and student body president

WOFFORD VS. AIR FORCE

Magic Numbers

•Wofford has a 54-2-1 record in the 57 games under coach **Mike Ayers** in which it has allowed 16 or fewer points.

Dating back to the final game of the 2000 campaign (a 24-6 win at Division I-A Louisiana-Monroe), Wofford has surrendered just 143 points in its last 14 wins (10.2 per game).

•Wofford has won 34 consecutive games when holding a halftime lead. The Terriers' last loss when leading at the break was a 20-16 defeat to Elon in 1995. Wofford held a 9-3 halftime edge that night.

Honorary I-A Members

The Air Force contest will represent Wofford's eighth game in the last six years against a Division I-A opponent.

The Terriers' first game in that stretch was a 29-27 loss at Marshall in the 1998 season finale. Wofford saw its bid for an upset over the Herd fall short when a 29-yard field goal was blocked with just over three minutes to play.

Listed below are Wofford's Division I-A games since the reclassification in 1982:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Score</u>
1998	Marshall	27-29
1999	Middle Tennessee	42-52
1999	La.-Lafayette	34-37 (OT)
2000	La.-Monroe	24-6
2001	Clemson	14-38
2001	South Carolina	14-38
2002	Maryland	8-37

Battling Maryland Hard

Wofford gave Maryland a much better game last season than many of the Terrapins' more heralded Division I-A foes. Listed below are Maryland's nine wins and its margin of victory:

<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Margin</u>
North Carolina	59-7	52 points
Eastern Michigan	45-3	42 points
Duke	45-12	33 points
West Virginia	48-17	31 points
Akron	44-14	30 points
Wofford	37-8	29 points
Tennessee	30-3	27 points
Georgia Tech*	34-10	24 points
Wake Forest	32-14	18 points
Clemson	30-12	18 points
N.C. State	24-21	3 points

*Trailing 34-3, Georgia Tech scored with 1:31 to play

Against Maryland's first-team defense, the Terriers put together an 18-play, 92-yard scoring drive that consumed 8:02 off the clock.

What the Fridge Had to Say ...

Maryland coach **Ralph Friedgen** spoke highly of the Wofford football team following the Sept. 28 game in College Park, Md.

"They never quit, that team," Friedgen said. "They fought hard and, I tell you what, our guys have a lot of respect for them. Wofford is a very scrappy, tough team. I thought our defense played exceptionally, especially in the first half."

Season-Opening Notes

•Wofford is 7-8 in season openers under coach Mike Ayers.

•When they win the season opener under Ayers, the Terriers have gone on to post a combined 46-32-1 record.

In campaigns it lost the season opener, Wofford's combined mark is 44-43.

•When allowing 19 or fewer points in a season opener under Ayers, Wofford is 7-1. The Terriers are 0-7 when surrendering 20 or more points in a season opener.

•Last year's 48-0 win over Newberry snapped a four-game losing streak in season openers for Wofford.

•The Terriers are opening on the road for just the second time in the last seven seasons.

•Air Force is Wofford's second season-opening Division I-A opponent in the last three seasons.

Making an Impression on the Opposition

•The Terriers' 472 rushing yards in a 26-19 win at Appalachian State last year set a single-game record for a Mountaineer opponent.

•Wofford's 459 yards in the 27-14 victory against The Citadel were the most allowed by the Bulldogs dating back to at least 1973, which is as far as The Citadel record book goes in that category.

Fourth Down: No Problem

It's well documented that the entire field is four-down territory for Wofford, who was 19-of-36 (52.8 percent) on fourth-down conversions last year compared to just 13 attempts for the opposition.

The Terriers were 21-of-33 (63.6 percent) on fourth-down attempts in 2001. Wofford was also 15-of-27 (55.6 percent) on fourth downs in the 2000 campaign and 24-of-39 (61.5 percent) in 1999.

Wofford even converted a fake punt on a 4th-and-19 at its own 19-yard line in a 1992 game against Newberry.

Rising Through the Ranks

Wofford is in its ninth season on the Division I-AA level. The Terriers previously competed for seven years in Division II (1988-94). Prior to 1988, Wofford was an NAIA member.

WOFFORD VS. AIR FORCE

Wofford Record Holder

Terrier punter **Jimmy Miner** is Wofford's career record holder with a 41.0 average.

Under the eye of NFL scouts, Miner set a single-season school record while ranking 12th nationally with a 42.2 mark last season. An unselfish player, he sacrifices his already impressive average to place the ball exactly where the Terrier coaches want it from a directional standpoint.

As a sophomore, he topped the SoCon and ranked eighth in the nation with a 42.0 average.

He's Old School

It's not uncommon for Wofford coach **Mike Ayers** to drive the team's equipment truck when it travels, or to personally powerwash the Terriers' blocking sleds when they need cleaning.

Avoiding the Flag

Wofford was the SoCon's second-least penalized team (54 for 393 yards) last season and was flagged just 22 times for 158 yards in its last seven games, including two penalties for 10 yards in the final two contests.

Turnovers, It's No Cliche ...

Wofford was a plus-six in the turnover department in its nine wins and a minus-six in the three losses.

Familiar Names

Wide receiver and kick returner **Shiel Wood** is the son of former Wofford athletic director and now senior vice-president **David Wood**.

The elder Wood was a football standout at Elon (1972-75) and a former assistant coach at Catawba.

Team Graybeard

All-SoCon left tackle **Chad Bentley** is the lone fifth-year senior on this year's Wofford team.

Freshmen Make Mark

Right guard **Marty Bauer** and halfback **Kevious Johnson** are the only true freshmen appearing on the Terriers' offensive or defensive two-deep.

Terriers Serve as Ball Hogs

Wofford had 14 scoring drives of at least 80 yards last season, including four of 90 yards or more.

Steady Improvements

With the exception of 2001, when it was beset by injuries and faced Division I-AA's toughest schedule with road games at Clemson and South Carolina, Wofford has consistently improved its year-by-year record since beginning SoCon play in 1997:

Year	Record	Place
1997	3-7, 2-6	8th
1998	4-7, 3-5	7th
1999	6-5, 5-3	4th
2000	7-4, 5-3	4th
2001	4-7, 3-5	6th
2002	9-3, 6-2	2nd

Terriers at .500 in SoCon History

Wofford's 6-2 SoCon record last season moved its all-time league mark to 24-24, an impressive feat considering that its debut season in 1997 represented just its third year on the Division I-AA level.

Quick Progress

Since beginning SoCon play in 1997, which was just its third season in Division I-AA, Wofford has the fourth-highest win total in league action: Georgia Southern (43), Appalachian State (37), Furman (34), Wofford (24), East Tennessee State (22), Western Carolina (21), Chattanooga (17), and The Citadel (13).

Did You Know?

Terrier Head Football Coach **Mike Ayers** was hired in 1988 over a chocolate milkshake at the Biltmore Dairy Bar in Asheville, N.C., by then Wofford athletic director and now Southern Conference commissioner **Danny Morrison**.

Wofford and the NFL

Wofford College is the summer training camp site for the Carolina Panthers of the National Football League.

The Last Time ...

•The Terriers have not had a kickoff return for a touchdown since **Craig Best** took one back 93 yards in a 1982 game versus Elon.

•Wofford's last punt return for a touchdown came in 1997 when **Tony Young** went 84 yards against Charleston Southern.

Strong Starts

Wofford allowed just one touchdown and 16 total points in the opening quarter of its 12 games last season.

The Terriers outscored their opponent by a 50-16 margin in that span.

Coaching Stability

Head Coach **Mike Ayers** is in his 16th season at Wofford. His assistant coaches have also been models of stability, including four of them being Wofford graduates:

Off. Coordinator **Wade Lang*** (16th year)
Kicking Coach **Lee Hanning** (14th year)
Def. Coordinator **Nate Woody*** (13th year)
Def. Line Coach **Jack Teachey** (10th year)
Wide Receiver Coach **Bruce Lackey** (9th year)
Outside LB Coach **Thomas Neel** (6th year)
RB Coach **Freddie Brown*** (5th year)
Secondary Coach **Terry Lantz** (4th year)
Tight End Coach **Joe Lesesne^** (3rd year)
Off. Line Coach **Eric Nash*** (1st year)

*Wofford graduate and former Terrier student-athlete

^Served as Wofford's president for 28 years (1972-2000)

"J" Rules at Halfback

Despite losing 1,000-yard rusher **Jesse McCoy** to graduation, the Wofford halfback position is solidified by sophomores **Gabriel Jackson** and **Aaron Johnson**, and freshman **Kevious Johnson**.

Jackson received SoCon Freshman of the Week honors after his 61-yard touchdown run with 1:36 to play provided the winning points in the Terriers' 26-19 win at Appalachian State last season. Jackson rushed for 305 yards on a 7.6 per carry mark a year ago.

Aaron Johnson, filling in for an injured McCoy, ran for 81 yards in a 31-24 win over Western Carolina. The Bowling Green, Ky., native averaged 7.7 yards per attempt in rushing for 193 yards.

Kevious Johnson was arguably the most impressive freshman during preseason camp. A native of Fitzgerald, Ga., Johnson saw action at both halfback and fullback.

Also returning to the halfback mix is veteran **Ben Mungin**, who started all 12 games last season.

Thurman Garners Rookie of the Year Honors

Inside linebacker **Jim Thurman**, a two-time SoCon Freshman of the Week in addition to being Wofford's Rookie of the Year, will step into a starting position this fall.

Thurman received his first SoCon weekly honor when he totaled 13 tackles, including nine solo stops, in the 14-7 win at Georgia Southern. He garnered the award again two weeks later after recording a pair of fumble recoveries, including one in overtime, to go with 10 tackles in a 27-21 victory over Chattanooga.

In between those two games, Thurman had possibly his best game of the year when he totaled nine solo stops at Maryland.

For the season, Thurman placed fourth on the Terriers with 75 tackles.

Bethay Named All-SoCon in Track

Starting nose tackle **Katon Bethay** became Wofford's first-ever All-SoCon performer in indoor track with his efforts in the shot put last winter.

Playing behind graduated All-America and four-time All-SoCon performer **Nathan Fuqua**, Bethay had a solid rookie season in 2002. He filled in for an injured Fuqua and totaled a season-high nine tackles, including six solo stops, in the 14-7 win at Georgia Southern.

Lexington Reunions

Wofford cornerback **Jonathan Wheeler** and Air Force defensive back **Adrian Wright** were prep teammates at Lexington High School in Columbia, S.C.

Wheeler, a junior, will be making his first collegiate start on Saturday. He lettered in a backup role his first two seasons.

Travel Itinerary

With classes not beginning until next week, the Wofford football team will depart on Wednesday for Colorado.

The Terriers will have three days of practice in Colorado Springs leading up to Saturday's game. Included in the travel itinerary is a Friday tour of the Air Force Academy.

Nelson Continues Assault on Tackle Records

Free safety **Matt Nelson** is a two-time All-SoCon performer and a first-team All-America in 2002. He is arguably the top defensive back to ever play at Wofford.

Listed below is where he ranks in some of the Terriers' major defensive categories:

Wofford Career Total Tackles

1. 411 - Bret Masters, 1985-88
2. 287 - Travis Yates, 1987-90
3. **285 - Matt Nelson, 2000-present**
4. 269 - David Leibowitz, 1986-88
5. 250 - Eric Daniel, 1994-97

Wofford Career Solo Tackles

1. 210 - Bret Masters, 1985-88
2. **191 - Matt Nelson, 2000-present**
3. 182 - Ben Dae, 1996-99
4. 172 - Travis Yates, 1987-90
5. 170 - David Leibowitz, 1986-88

Wofford Career Assisted Tackles

1. 201 - Bret Masters, 1985-88
 2. 116 - Rodney Payne, 1982-85
 3. 115 - Travis Yates, 1987-90
 4. 109 - Eric Daniell, 1994-97
 5. 101 - Andre Patrick, 1992-95
- 94 - Matt Nelson, 2000-present**

Wofford Single-Season Solo Tackles

1. 110 - Bret Masters, 1987
2. 96 - Ben Dae, 1999
3. **83 - Matt Nelson, 2002**
4. 79 - Bret Masters, 1986
5. **78 - Matt Nelson, 2001**

Wofford Single-Season Assisted Tackles

1. 97 - Bret Masters, 1987
2. 83 - Bret Masters, 1986
3. 71 - Rodney Payne, 1985
4. 67 - Pete Waldrop, 1986
5. **48 - Matt Nelson, 2002**

Scheduling Quirks

- Wofford has six home games for the first time since the 1993 campaign.

- With three home games and an open date in September, Wofford does not have a road game next month. The Terriers' next date away from Gibbs Stadium is Oct. 4 at Chattanooga.

South Carolina's Team

With six home games and road dates at The Citadel and Furman, Wofford will leave the Palmetto State for only three of its 11 games this season.

Gibbs Stadium

Wofford's football stadium is the second youngest facility in the Southern Conference.

With a capacity of 13,000, Gibbs Stadium opened in October 1996. Only Chattanooga's Finley Stadium (1997) is newer.

The Terriers have a 21-12 home record (.636) since moving into Gibbs Stadium.

WOFFORD COLLEGE TWO-DEEP

OFFENSE

LEFTTACKLE

67 Chad Bentley (6-1, 290, Sr.)
69 Davy Olmsted (6-4, 290, So.)

LEFT GUARD

65 Bobby Gibbs (6-3, 290, Jr.)
72 Tim Beckner (6-3, 275, So.)

CENTER

71 Brad Anderson (6-2, 275, So.)
73 Thad Ball (6-3, 275, Jr.)

RIGHT GUARD

77 Eric Deutsch (6-3, 315, Sr.)
68 Marty Bauer (6-2, 255, Fr.)

RIGHT TACKLE

78 Kevin Hodapp (6-3, 280, Jr.)
79 Brad Birrenkott (6-5, 265, So.)

TIGHTEND

88 Adam Regenthal (6-3, 242, Jr.)
85 Steve Prochak (6-2, 235, Sr.)

WIDE RECEIVER

84 Shiel Wood (5-10, 185, Jr.)
6 Curtis Nash (6-1, 188, Sr.)

QUARTERBACK

15 Jeff Zolman (6-1, 190, Jr.)
18 Trey Rodgers (6-0, 185, Jr.)

HALFBACK

23 Gabriel Jackson (5-9, 185, So.)
34 Corey Dunn (5-11, 205, So.)

FULLBACK

4 J.R. McNair (5-10, 208, Sr.)
38 Donald Dorham (5-10, 220, Jr.)

HALFBACK

22 Aaron Johnson (5-10, 185, So.)
20 Kevious Johnson (5-9, 180, Fr.)

DEFENSE

TACKLE

96 Ben Whitney (6-3, 260, Jr.)
95 John Pressley (6-2, 250, Sr.)

NOSE TACKLE

92 Katon Bethay (6-2, 270, So.)
94 Gaby Dibo (6-0, 275, So.)

TACKLE

75 Lee Basinger (6-1, 255, Jr.)
91 Bill Pryor (6-2, 250, Sr.)

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

10 Teddie Whitaker (6-2, 230, Sr.)
28 Derek Newberry (6-3, 218, So.)

INSIDE LINEBACKER

55 Jim Thurman (6-2, 225, So.)
57 Josh Smith (6-1, 215, Jr.)

INSIDE LINEBACKER

44 Timmy Thrift (6-0, 220, Jr.)
31 Brandon Smith (5-11, 210, Jr.)

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

54 Jimmy Freland (5-11, 220, Jr.)
35 Andrew Nelson (5-11, 215, Jr.)

LEFT CORNERBACK

39 Jonathan Wheeler (6-2, 190, Jr.)
16 Dedrick Stuckey (5-10, 180, So.)

FREESAFETY

5 Matt Nelson (6-1, 205, Sr.)
9 Shane Fast (6-1, 195, Sr.)

STRONG SAFETY

19 Ryan Steele (6-1, 200, Sr.)
33 Tony Jefferson (5-11, 192, Jr.)

RIGHT CORNERBACK

8 Craig Thomas (5-10, 188, Sr.)
11 Alex Love (5-11, 180, So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

PUNTER

32 Jimmy Miner (6-3, 195, Sr.)
80 Andrew Moss (6-1, 195, Fr.)

PLACEKICKER

99 Jay Harvey (5-10, 180, Sr.)
27 Nick Robinson (5-10, 180, Fr.)

PUNT RETURNS

84 Shiel Wood (5-10, 185, Jr.)
5 Matt Nelson (6-1, 205, Sr.)

KICKOFF RETURNS

84 Shiel Wood (5-10, 185, Jr.)
5 Matt Nelson (6-1, 205, Sr.)

HOLDER

31 Brandon Smith (5-11, 210, Jr.)

LONG SNAPPER

82 Jonathan Starks (6-2, 225, Sr.)
85 Steve Prochak (6-2, 235, Sr.)

KICKOFFS

99 Jay Harvey (5-10, 180, Sr.)
27 Nick Robinson (5-10, 180, Fr.)

From: Cohen, Mark /O=WOFFORD COLLEGE/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COHENM
Subject: Wofford Football Coach Named to AFM's Annual "Hot List"
Date: August 27, 2003 at 3:16 PM
To:



Wofford football coach Mike Ayers has been selected by *American Football Monthly* as one of 10 Division I-AA coaches that it considers will make an impact in 2003.

"These are the guys that could become the next generation of football coaching legends," *AFM* managing editor Aaron S. Lee said. "These coaches are perfect examples of what it takes to be a great coach. His motivation and dedication to both his job and his players are paramount."

For the past nine years, *AFM's* primary goal is to showcase the nation's top coaches at all levels.

Wofford's all-time winningest coach with 90 victories, Ayers has been named the Southern Conference Coach of the Year twice in the last three seasons. He was selected as the 2002 National Coach of the Year by the College Sporting News and the runner-up for The Sports Network's Eddie Robinson Award, signifying the nation's top coach in Division I-AA.

Ayers is also a three-time Region Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association. He guided the Terriers to a 9-3 overall record last season and a second-place SoCon finish with a 6-2 league mark. Wofford was picked for seventh by the SoCon coaches and media.